

The Spark Gap

MARC

Volume 17

FIELD DAY 2000

Field Day started on a disappointing note, on Saturday morning JR KB9SE and I WA9ZET arrived at the Field Day site by 6:00 Am. I started preparing breakfast, Biscuits and Gravy. It wasn't quite ready by 8:00 Am. but it didn't matter, as only two or three others had arrived. Breakfast was served at about 9:00 Am. to only six or seven members. Ed Williams arrived at around 830 Am., had breakfast and then began positioning the crane. Antenna erection began about 10:00 Am., which was halted because of a rain shower.

Charley N9MEW arrived shortly before the shower, with the trailer mounted 100 ft. crank up tower of WTTV Channel 4's. Most of us got wet setting up in the shower. We had a vertical mounted on the wttv portable tower, this was the first antenna system to become operational. The next antennas to become operational were the 20M beam and Rick KB9NDF's multi band diapole. The first station was on the air by 2:00 Pm. The menu for the day was. Breakfast -Biscuits and gravy as already stated, Lunch JR KB9HSE's Chili, and Dinner his 5 hour V-8 stew and Deep fried turkey. Saturday afternoon and evening were almost a complete loss, due to thunder storms which seemed to roll through at half hour intervals. After the storms had passed things began to look up. Contacts were being made at a rapid pace. Saturday ended on a positive note for me, as I did not end up in the

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Hospital as I did last year and I actually got to do some operating.

In spite of the disappointing start and the storms we did pretty good with nine more contacts than last year's 371. Ten contacts were made using PSK31, two of which were DX., OA4AHW Lima Peru and VK2CA Broken Hills New South Whales, Australia.(no bonus points) and 10 contacts were battery powered. (100 bonus points.) The PSK31 and battery contacts were made by Ernest Clark, KB9SKI, who also was one of the hardest workers of the event, he was everywhere doing all sorts of things to get us started and operating.

Saturday's operation halted sometime in the wee hours of Sunday Morning when a very tired crew decided to call it a day. Sunday's breakfast was also biscuits and gravy. Operation continued until around noon, when tear down and cleanup started and took two to three hours. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to those who took part in our Field Day Exercise and those who worked so hard on Saturday's setup.

and a special vote of thanks to :

Ed Williams of ED's Crane Service for once again providing us with the Crane, Steve Brant K8VII of WTTV Channel 4 TV for use of the portable trailer mounted tower.

Tug Sutton for providing us with the EOC's portable trailer mounted tower.

Al WA9ZET

Restructuring Generates Application Avalanche

For many amateurs upgrading as a result of April 15 license restructuring, it's been a bit like the bad old days, when applicants had to wait weeks instead of days for the FCC to grant their new tickets. As of press time in late May, it was taking six weeks or longer between exam sessions and FCC license grants. Patience was the byword for ARRL VEC, which handles the lions share of volunteer examination sessions.

ARRL-VEC Manager Hank Jahnke, W9JJ, was estimating more than 17,000 new Generals and more than 13,000 new extras would result from applications filed April 15 through May 15.

Despite an infusion of temporary help, the largest Volunteer Examiner Coordinators were struggled to process the hugh influx of restructuring related exam sessions paperwork. To get through the backlog, Jahnke not only added temporary workers but solicited volunteers from among the ARRL Headquarters staff.

Fred MMAia, W5YI, cited a similaar situation for applications filed via his W5YI-VEC , where he's added a couple of temporary employees. We've got mail buckets everywhere, he said in mid May. ARRL-VEC staffers put in overtime and worked weekends to keep up with the applications-- carefully scrutinizing the arriving paperwork, recording sessions results, keying in on idividual applications and sending them in electronically to the FCC. Jahnke said the care ARRL-VEC takes in checking VE sessions paperwork and applications for completeness, accuracy and integrity pays off in avoiding potential problems

or questions from the FCC down the road. Typically, the FCC grants applications overnight.

The ARRL-VEC team served nerly 35,800 applicants between January 1 and April 14. As of late May it was continueing to work its way through the nearly 16,000 applications logged in from April 15 through April 25, most of them from April 15 test sessions.

Jahnke says that dealing with telephone inquiries became part of the challange of handeling the hugh workload. Every three to five minutes mans 10 to 15 license appicaations that don't get processed, he explained., adding that to the people best equipped to answer callers questions also happened to the best equipped to process applications. Some of the impatience was chalked up to a desire by licensees either to file a vanity call sign application or to upgrade their Volunteer Examiner status.Neither can be accomplished without a license grant from the FCC reflecting the applicant's upgraded class, in a few cases, applicant were awaiting first time amateur licenses and did not even have intrim operating authority.

Questions, Questions

Aside from inquiries dealing with the progress of applications, other burning questions had to do with operating privelages. Several callers wondered if Technician s who have passed the 5 WPM Mprse code test (Element 1) under the new rules could operate CW in the Novice bands. The answer is yes. Such licensees no longer get an new license class, but they have the same privelages as Tech Plus licensees.

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While such element 1 credit provides new privileges for the term of the license the credit--at least for now--is only good for 365 days for upgrading purposes. The League has permitted the FCC to make element 1 credit permanent. At the Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum, Bill Cross W3TN, of the commission said the FCC has retained a copy of it's database as it existed on April 15, so that the FCC will be able to tell which licensees were Technicians and which were Tech Pluses.

The FCC also made it clear in the wake of restructuring that General class operators may not operate in the Advanced class subbands. Cross reiterated that point in his Dayton talk, in which he urged upgrading licensees to become familiar with the new rules.

Others have wondered if they may use a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination--CSCE--for an old amateur examination element under the new rules. In most cases as long as the CSCE is not older than 365 days, it remains valid for equivalent element credit. An unexpired CSCE for Element 3B is valid for the Element 3, an unexpired CSCE's for Element 4 A and 4B together confer credit for the new Elements 4(Amateur Extra written).

On the other hand an unexpired CSCE for the Advanced Element 4A by itself will earn at most a hearty handshake, explained Brennan Price N4QX, the newest member of the ARRL

field and Educational Services. Price an experienced VE has been helping to handle the backlog of inquiries. Element 4A is no good without Element 4B he said.

From July 2000 QST

Enforcement

FCC has more questions for W5YI-VEC:

The FCC has posed more questions to Fred Maia, W5YI, of the W5YI-Volunteer Examiner Coordinator as part of a continuing FCC audit of the VEC. The FCC gave Maia 60 days to reply to its latest inquiry. The FCC told Maia May 11 that his April 12 reply to its earlier inquiry didn't go far enough. Your response is inadequate and does not answer the concerns raised about the integrity of your testing program, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said. The FCC has been looking into allegations that licenses and upgrades were sold by W5YI-VEC sessions in Puerto Rico. In its May 11 inquiry, the FCC wants to know if Maia's April 12 letter was his final report on his fact-finding trip to Puerto Rico that month and his investigation into licensing irregularities there. Among other things, Maia had told the FCC in his reply that he'd uncovered apparent irregularities regarding code tests at a March 18 test session in Salinas, Puerto Rico. He also reported that an applicant listed on the session roster subsequently said she had not taken any examination at all. The FCC asked if Maia intended to furnish additional session details and documents. Citing a lack of confidence in the integrity of his Amateur Radio Examination Program, Maia in April discontinued the services of the Puerto Rico VEs

In part from July 2000 QST

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Membership

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is based in Franklin, Indiana. Membership is open to all amateur radio operators and other interested parties.

Club meetings are conducted on the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at 1100 Hospital Rd. in Franklin, In.

Membership dues are \$18.00 per year for full membership. Other types of memberships are available.

Amateur Radio Operator License testing is offered following the meetings during the months of March through November.

The club maintains an open repeater in the 2-meter band at 146.835 MHz. Each full member has access to the repeater and autopatch.

Membership dues payments and changes of address should be sent to the Club Treasurer at the address listed below.

Newsletter

The Spark GAp is the monthly club newsletter.

articles and information that would be of interest to the club members are welcome. Information may be submitted by E-mail or by mailing to the club address listed below.

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Marc, PO box 836, Franklin, In. 46131
Club meeting Sat July 15 at EOC

Curran Electronics

Sales and Service

We repair most brands of amateur
Buiseness bands and CB's and scanners

Donna Curran KA9SWK

1217 Wittfield St.

Wittfield St. is the first street east of Post Rd. on 19th. St. then north on Wittfield to 1217 Red \
Mailbox

Tom Curran N9DZJ

Indianapolis, In. 46229

Proposed Constitution of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

(Bold type indicates new or changed wording\\; *italic* indicates deleted wording.)

ARTICLE I

Membership Categories

1. MEMBER, as used herein, shall mean an individual in good standing, whose dues are currently paid.
2. FULL MEMBER, as used herein, is a MEMBER who has a valid Amateur Radio license. Such a person may vote and hold office.
3. ASSOCIATE MEMBER is a licensed or unlicensed person who is a member without the privilege of voting or holding office.
4. FAMILY MEMBER is a person related to and living in the same household as a FULL MEMBER. A family member may vote or hold office only if he or she holds an Amateur Radio license, in which case he or she shall have all the privileges of a FULL MEMBER if dues have been paid. Each FAMILY MEMBER beyond the first in a household shall pay one-half the established dues each year in order to attain the membership.
5. HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER is any FULL MEMBER who is nominated at any regular meeting for HONORARY LIFETIME membership. Such nomination must be by a FULL MEMBER. This status is intended to be an exceptional honor, in recognition of especially meritorious and distinguished contributions of the nominee to the club. A majority vote of members present and voting is required to confer this status. An HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER *may* pay no dues and shall retain all the privileges of FULL MEMBERSHIP.
6. DUES-EXEMPT MEMBER is a person who has been nominated by a voting member for dues-exempt status. Such nominations may be made at any regular meeting, and an explanation of the reason for such nominations given. Reasons may include, but are not limited to, financial hardship. A majority of members present and voting shall be required for the motion to pass. A dues-exempt member shall pay no dues and will retain all the privileges of the type of membership held. This status shall be reviewed annually at its anniversary regular meeting and may be rescinded by these same procedures.

ARTICLE II

Attaining Membership

1. Any person who submits an application complete with the signatures of two sponsoring FULL MEMBERS of the club shall be accepted for the appropriate type of membership.

ARTICLE III

Delinquent/Inactive Members

1. Persons whose dues are in arrears for any time period up to one year shall be considered delinquent. While delinquent they do not have membership privileges. They may regain membership by payment of dues as prescribed in the by-laws.
2. Persons whose membership has lapsed for more than one year shall be considered inactive and have no membership privileges.

To regain membership, inactive persons must apply as new members with dues as prescribed in the by-laws Article II and Article VI.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Elections

1. Officers of the club to be elected for one-year terms are: PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY and TREASURER. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined if sufficient candidates are not available.
2. The REPEATER TRUSTEE, also an officer of the club, shall be elected for a term of three years. The trustee must hold a valid Amateur Radio license of Technician class or higher and be a full member of the club.
3. These officers together with the head of the VE team, the RACES officer and the ARES officer shall constitute the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
4. A NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall be appointed by the PRESIDENT at the regular July meeting. This committee shall present a slate of officers to the membership at the August meeting. At this time nominations can be made from the floor of people who agree (by oral or written statement) to serve if elected. If floor nominations produce multiple nominees for any office the SECRETARY shall mail a ballot to each voting member to be received no later than 14 days before the September meeting at which time the votes will be counted. A majority of votes will elect. Tie votes shall be re-voted until a majority is established.
5. The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall present one or more persons as nominees for the position of REPEATER TRUSTEE when that office is to be filled. The electing process shall be the same as in Article IV above. Nominees for the office of REPEATER TRUSTEE must hold a valid Amateur Radio license of Technician Class or higher and be a full member of the club.
6. Newly elected officers shall assume their duties at the regular October meeting, except for the REPEATER TRUSTEE, who shall assume that office immediately upon election.
7. A vacancy in the office of the PRESIDENT shall be filled by the VICE PRESIDENT. In all other offices, vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for the remainder of the officers' term.
8. Officers may succeed themselves in subsequent terms.
9. Officers may be removed from office in the manner described in Article V dealing with expulsion of members. Removal from office does not mean exclusion from the club.

ARTICLE V

Expulsion of Member

1. At any regular meeting any full member may move to expel any member, stating just cause. The SECRETARY shall send a written notice of such motion to each voting member prior to the next regularly called meeting, at which time the motion shall be voted upon. The member whose expulsion is under consideration is entitled to address the club members prior to voting. The defense is expected to be in the general form of an appeal or a statement of

the case for the person being considered for expulsion. The expulsion motion requires a nine-tenths majority of members present and voting in order to pass.

ARTICLE VI

Duties of Officers

1. The duties of the PRESIDENT shall be to conduct all meetings according to adopted rules, to enforce observances of such rules, to decide questions of order (seeking parliamentary assistance if desired), to sign all official documents, handle emergency matters with the advice and consent of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, and to perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office.
2. The duties of the VICE PRESIDENT shall be to assume presidential duties if the need arises, and to be of general assistance to the PRESIDENT.
3. Duties of the SECRETARY shall be to keep records of the proceedings of all meetings, to report to the membership the minutes of the meetings, to carry on all correspondence and report appropriately to the membership. Correspondence is understood to include matters relating to meetings.
4. The duties of the TREASURER shall be to receive and expend monies, receive applications and fees for membership, keep proper records of all financial matters, keep an accurate record of members and their dues status, make financial reports at club meetings and as otherwise requested. In general the TREASURER shall pay only those monies authorized by the membership at club meetings. However, there shall be established a petty cash fund for the payment, without authorization, of routine and incidental expenses. The amount of the petty cash fund shall be established in the by-laws. The PRESIDENT shall arrange for the TREASURER's books to be reviewed annually.
5. The duties of the REPEATER TRUSTEE shall be to authorize and supervise the use of any club call sign, be accountable for club equipment, provide continuity and guidance relating to changes in officers, maintain such records as are necessary, and be the chief contact person between the club and any regulatory governmental agencies. The REPEATER TRUSTEE shall be responsible for the proper legal use of privileges granted by this license, have final say only in all aforementioned legal matters, and shall submit a report at each monthly meeting.
6. At the end of any officer's term, all club materials in the officer's possession shall be given to the officer's successor. The President's Plaque shall remain with the retiring PRESIDENT for one year.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

1. It is generally intended that the club will meet regularly once per month. However, a meeting may be called by the PRESIDENT at any time, and must be called upon written request of five voting members. Written notices of special meetings, stating the business thereof, shall be sent to all members in sufficient time that by ordinary postal delivery, the notice will reach members at least 24 hours prior to the meeting time. Verbal notices may also be transmitted via telephone or club-sponsored radio, or

both, and the same time restriction shall apply.

2. Written notices are the responsibility of the SECRETARY.
Verbal notices, or the arrangement for them, are the responsibility of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

1. Any voting member may move to amend this constitution at any regular meeting or at any meeting specially called for the purpose of a proposed amendment. The proposed amendment must be in writing and will be read aloud by the SECRETARY at the meeting at which it is presented. The SECRETARY shall mail to all voting members a notice of the proposed amendment stating the relevant portion of the constitution as it exists, and the same portion as it would read after passage of the proposed amendment. This notice, along with a ballot, is to be received by voting members at least one week before the meeting at which the votes will be tallied. This meeting shall be at least three weeks later than the meeting at which the motion to amend was made. Yea votes on two-thirds of the properly marked ballots received will be required to amend. Ballots may be delivered in person or by mail. Abstentions, late or non-received ballots, or improperly marked ballots shall not be counted in determining the proportion of yeas and nays.

ARTICLE IX

Parliamentary Procedure

1. Robert's Rules of Order, revised, shall govern proceedings of the club except as otherwise provided in the constitution or by-laws.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

Quorum

1. One-fourth of the total club voting members present shall comprise a quorum for regular meetings.

ARTICLE II

Dues

1. Per annum dues shall be: FULL MEMBER \$18.00, ASSOCIATE MEMBER \$10.00. family member \$9.00. These dues may be changed by majority vote at the December meeting, to be effective the next January.

2. New Member dues shall be pro-rated to the next January 1.

3. The dues year shall extend from January 1 to December 31.

ARTICLE III

Petty Cash

1. The petty cash fund established for the use of the TREASURER between meetings shall not exceed \$100.00.

ARTICLE IV

Executive Committee

1. The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE shall offer guidance and advice to the PRESIDENT, and shall act on behalf of the membership between meetings if matters of an emergency nature arise which require immediate action.
2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE actions taken in accordance with Article IV (1) shall be approved or disapproved by a majority of the members present and voting at the next regular meeting following the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE actions. If disapproved, the actions shall be rescinded if possible\\; if not, the disapproval shall be considered an expression of censure.

ARTICLE V

Committees

1. The PRESIDENT, solely, or with the guidance and advice of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, may create committees, either standing or ad hoc, as is deemed necessary or desirable. The authority to create committees also includes the authority to dissolve them. The president shall be an ex officio member of all such committees.

Proposed by KA9OOH
KB9LOT
KB9HSE
WA9ZET